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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty.'s Docket: UEMURA=5

In re Application of: ) PCT BRANCH - BOX PCT  
Hidetoshi UEMURA et al )  
Appln. No.: 09/856,319 ) IA Appln. PCT/JP99/06473  
Filed: May 21, 2000 ) IA Filing Date: 11/19/1999  
For: NOVEL SERINE PROTEASE ... ) ) Washington, D.C.  
 ) July 31, 2001

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application,  
please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Delete claims 1-10 and 34 and add the following new  
claims 35-43 as follows:

35. (New) A protein selected from the group  
consisting of:

(a) a protein having the amino acid sequence  
composed of 231 amino acids represented by the 1st to 231st  
amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a protein having an amino acid sequence derived  
from the amino acid sequence represented by the 1st to 231st  
amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 by deletion, substitution or